

Colored Civil War Troops, version 2.0

Shannon Hudson

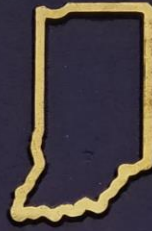


28TH REGIMENT USCT

Indiana's only African-American Civil War regiment served as part of the 28th Regiment of U. S. Colored Troops. African-American infantry was authorized in 1863 to help fill federal quota for soldiers. The Reverend Willis Revels was recruiting officer. Recruits trained at Camp Fremont, established on land near here owned by Calvin Fletcher.

(Continued on other side)

NEW WATER
SERVICES COMPANY



28TH REGIMENT USCT

(Continued from other side)

In April 1864, six companies were organized and activated. The 28th regiment served valiantly in the Battle of the Crater at Petersburg, Virginia on July 30, 1864, when nearly half of the men were killed or wounded. The 28th returned to Indianapolis January 6, 1866 to a reception in its honor; officers and men were discharged January 9.

INSTALLED 2004 INDIANA HISTORICAL BUREAU, INDIANA WAR MEMORIALS COMMISSION,
ANDREW & ESTHER BOWMAN, AND AFRICAN AMERICAN LANDMARKS COMMITTEE OF
HISTORIC LANDMARKS FOUNDATION OF INDIANA, INC.



28th USCT

Where they served

Alexandria, Virginia, White House, Virginia, accompanied General Sheridan's Cavalry through Chickahominy Swamps to Prince George Court House, guarding Washington D.C., Petersburg, Richmond, Weldon Railroad, Poplar Grove Church, Boydton Plank Road, Hatcher's Run, St. Mary's, Maryland, in charge of prisoners, City Point, Virginia, to Texas guarding the Rio Grande

Battle of the Crater

- Petersburg, Virginia, represented an important railroad system in which four lines met before continuing to Richmond, Virginia, the capital of the Confederacy. Union forces began planning to tunnel under the Confederate forces, blowing the tunnel, and storming the Confederate encampment.
- Unfortunately, the two Union commanders, George Meade and Ambrose Burnside found themselves embroiled in a bitter controversy over exactly how this should be accomplished, and the 28th and other Black troops found themselves caught in the middle of a power tug-of-war.
- Due to the exhaustion of the White soldiers already in the Petersburg area, the Black troops of Burnside's division had been given the opportunity to train and to lead the assault on the Confederate military camp after the explosives had detonated. Starting in early June, the men of the 28th along with other Black troops drilled for the assault, fully understanding what would and could occur when the mine exploded.

Battle of the Crater

- However, in late July just before the military operation began, Meade changed his mind for potentially a variety of reasons. If the Black division had led the assault and failed, Meade, and ultimately Ulysses S. Grant, would be seen as butchers sending Blacks troops to a slaughter. If the Black troops succeeded, the message would have been more controversial; Black troops were equals to their White counterparts worthy of fighting alongside White soldiers. After a series of messages exchanged between Meade and Burnside, the decision, supported by Grant, was made- the Black troops would not lead the assault.
- Less than five hours before the planned assault, Colonel Henry Thomas of the 28th received the message about the change in plans, delivering the news to his troops which was received with disgust, anger, disbelief, while others expressed no surprise. Burnside selected the replacement troops by drawing lots. Brigadier General James H. Ledlie's 1st Division was the lucky winner, but due to his disgust with the process, he failed to inform his men about expectations choosing to spend the battle drunk well behind the lines, and to provide no leadership.

Battle of the Crater

- On 30 July 1864, after many delays, the tunneled mine detonated achieving the desired effects; over 250 Confederate deaths and mass confusion in the enemy ranks. But the tide quickly turned. The untrained and unprepared replacement White Union troops stormed directly into, not around, the trench created by the explosion becoming part of a turkey shoot for the recovered Confederate troops. Chaos reigned and the Union casualties mounted into the thousands.
- Sadly, after defeat was guaranteed, the 28th still received the order to charge approximately 3 ½ hours after the detonation of mine. They met the same fate as the White soldiers. During the battle, a Black soldier, begging for his life, waited while two Confederate soldiers jammed a gun to his stomach and fired. Eyewitnesses watched in horror as Confederate soldiers bayoneted Black Union soldiers well after they had surrendered.

Battle of the Crater

- In hindsight, experts agree had the Black regiments been sent in, they would have been prepared, known what to expect, and the outcome would have been significantly different. But at the end of the day, both White and Black soldiers met death and disaster. Approximately 50% of the 28th fell at the Battle of the Crater.
- After the Battle of the Crater, the 28th and remaining Black troops regrouped and, ironically, watched Petersburg eventually fall opening the door to Richmond. According to many historians, the 28th was one of the first Union units to enter the Confederate capital when it fell on 3 April 1865.

Daniel Boon(e), (Boan)

- Daniel was born circa 1841. His father was Daniel Boon(e), birthplace unknown, and Lizzie, born in Indiana.
- Daniel enlisted 9 February 1865 serving in Company C, 28th Regiment, U.S.C.T. as a private.
- After the war he married Jennie and worked as a barber.
- He died 23 January 1907 in Indiana of Bright's Disease which involves a chronic inflammation of the kidneys. His funeral was conducted at the Bethel AME Church.
- His obituary states that his father's name was Daniel Boone, and it is believed that he came here from Kentucky, his paternal ancestors served as slaves in the family of the famous Kentucky pioneer Daniel Boone.

Robert Hopkins



Episode III, scene 3 portrayed the days of the Underground Railroad. From left to right are Fred Vance, W. A. Collings, H. E. Biddle, S. P. Templeton, Robert Hopkins, Harry Michael, and George F. Leonard. Hopkins, who portrayed the runaway slave, was actually born a slave in Kentucky but escaped during the Civil War to enlist in the Union army.

Robert Hopkins

- Robert Hopkins, the gentleman who portrayed the runaway slave in the 1916 Centennial pageant, began his life as a slave in the ownership of General Samuel Hopkins' daughter Miss Mary Bush Hopkins of Henderson, Kentucky. Based on his Civil War enlistment papers, he was born 1843-1844.
- His owner, Mary Bush Hopkins was the last-born child of General Samuel Hopkins, the Father of Henderson, Kentucky. The family originally hailed from Virginia and claimed as their ancestors Patrick Henry, President Zachary Taylor and President James Madison.
- General Samuel Hopkins was a lawyer and surveyor, Revolutionary War and War of 1812 hero. In 1797, he platted the town of Henderson, Kentucky. He practiced law, represented Henderson County in the House of Representatives, and become a court judge
- Samuel Hopkins built a large plantation, experimented with different crops and kept exact records of the results of these crops, where he sold them at exaggerated prices. By 1800 Henderson County began producing immense quantities of crops, especially tobacco, wheat, hemp and other products that then floated down the Ohio to New Orleans' markets.

Robert Hopkins

- General Hopkins and his wife, Betty, had 8 children, the last of which was Mary Bush Hopkins born in 1796. She never married inheriting the plantation, Spring Garden, upon the death of her father in 1819. Robert was born on this Hopkins' plantation, growing up working General Hopkin's fields.
- During the Civil War when the Federal soldiers were occupying Henderson, they came to Miss Bush Hopkins and told her she would have to take the oath of allegiance to the United States Government because she was a rebel. She quickly retorted, "Yes, I am a Rebel! George Washington was a Rebel!" Shocked at her brash comment (and realizing she was correct), the soldiers left without forcing her to take the oath. Mary lived to see the conclusion of the Civil War dying circa 1874.

Robert Hopkins

- On 26 August 1864, Robert left the Hopkins plantation and enlisted for three years in Company C, 118th Regiment of the U.S.C.T. at Owensboro, Kentucky. Since he could not read or write, he simply made an “X” for his signature. Mary Bush Hopkins is listed as his owner on his enlistment papers, but it is unclear if she consented to his departure or if Robert heeded the Emancipation Proclamation simply taking the initiative to leave slavery. He stood 5’ 4 ½” tall, had copper skin, and black eyes and hair. He listed laborer as his occupation.
- During his time in the 118th U.S.C.T., he was promoted twice; once on 31 August 1864, and again to sergeant on 11 January 1865. Robert saw action at the sieges of Petersburg and Richmond, Virginia in 1864, and later in July 1865 at points along the Rio Grande, Texas. His regiment disbanded and all members mustered out on February 6, 1866.

UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS ENLISTMENT.

STATE OF

TOWN OF

Virginia *Dumfries*

I, *Robert Hopkins* born in *Hudson Co*

in the State of *Virginia* aged *Twenty one* years

and by occupation a *Laborer* Do hereby acknowledge to

have volunteered *Twenty fourth* day of *August* 186*4*

to serve as a Soldier in the Army of the United States of America, for the

period of THREE YEARS, unless sooner discharged by proper authority: Do

also agree to accept such bounty, pay, rations, and clothing, as are, or may be,

established by law for the U. S. colored troops.

And I, *Robert Hopkins*

do solemnly swear that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the United States

of America, and that I will serve them honestly and faithfully against all their

enemies or opposers whomsoever; and that I will observe and obey the orders

of the President of the United States, and the orders of the officers appointed

over me, according to the Rules and Articles of War.

Sworn and subscribed to, at *Dumfries Va*

this *24* day of *August* 186*4* *Robert Hopkins*

Before *John P. Crissore*

I CERTIFY, ON HONOR, That I have carefully examined the above named Volunteer agree-

ably to the General Regulations of the Army, and that in my opinion he is free from all bodily

defects and mental infirmity, which would in any way disqualify him from performing the

duties of a soldier. This man has *blue* eyes, *5* feet *7* inches high, *172* inches high.

John P. Crissore

RECRUITING OFFICER OR AGENT

Mustered into the United States Service *24* day of *August* 186*4* at *Dumfries Va* by

John P. Crissore

Mustering Officer

Home Address *Miss Mary B. Hopkins Hudson Co*

Residence at *Hudson Co*

Mustered into the service of the United States, for three years or dur-

Regiment of

Volunteers, in the

Company

of

186*4*



over me, according to the Rules and Articles of War.

Sworn and subscribed to, at

this 24 day of August 1864

Before

John R. Crissman

I CERTIFY, ON HONOR, That I have carefully examined the above named Volunteer agreeably to the General Regulations of the Army, and that, in my opinion, he is free from all bodily defects and mental infirmity, which would in any way disqualify him from performing the duties of a soldier.

Capt. P. M. May 2^d 1864

W. B. Campbell
Surgeon, U.S. Army
EXAMINING SURGEON

I CERTIFY, ON HONOR, that I have minutely inspected the Volunteer previously to his enlistment, and that he was entirely sober when enlisted; that, to the best of my judgment and belief, he is of lawful age, and that, in accepting him as duly qualified to perform the duties of an able-bodied soldier, I have especially observed the regulations which govern the recruiting service. This soldier has eyes, hair, complexion, is feet 4 1/2 inches high.

John R. Crissman
RECRUITING OFFICER OR AGENT

Mastered into the United States Service

24 day of August 1864 at Henderson Ky

John R. Crissman

Mastering Officer

Owner's Address

W. J. May, B. Hopkins Henderson Ky

Credited to

Henderson Co

Robert B. Hopkins



During the war, from date of enlistment in Company ... day of ... 1864 at

A.

118

U.S.C.T.

Robert Hopkins

, Co. *C*, 118 Reg't U. S. Col'd Inf.

Appears on

Company Descriptive Book

of the organization named above.

DESCRIPTION.

Age *21* years; height *5* feet *4* inches.Complexion *Copper*Eyes *Blue*; hair *Blue*Where born *Henderson Co Ky*Occupation *Laborer*

ENLISTMENT.

When *Aug 24*, 186*4*.Where *Owensboro Ky*By whom *Capt J.R. Grieson*; term *3* y'rs.

Remarks:

A.

118

U.S.C.T.

Robt Hopkins

Appears with rank of *Priv* on

Muster and Descriptive Roll of a Detachment of U. S. Vols. forwarded

for the 118 Reg't U. S. Col'd Infantry. Roll dated

*Owensboro, Ky. Aug. 26, 1864.*Where born *Ky.*Age *21* y'rs; occupation *Laborer*When enlisted *Aug. 24*, 186*4*.Where enlisted *Owensboro, Ky.*For what period enlisted *3* years.Eyes *Black*; hair *Black*Complexion *Black*; height *5* ft. *4 1/2* in.When mustered in *Aug 24*, 186*4*.Where mustered in *Owensboro, Ky.*Bounty paid \$ *100*; due \$ *100*Where credited *Henderson Co, Ky*

Company to which assigned

Remarks: *Owner, Miss. M. B.**Hopkins, Henderson,**Henderson Co, Ky.*

H

118

U.S.C.T.

Robert HopkinsPriv, Co. C, 118 Reg't U. S. Col'd Infantry.

Appears on

Company Muster-in and Descriptive Roll

of the organization named above. Roll dated

Baltimore Md, Oct 19, 1864.Where born Henderson Co KyAge 21 y'rs; occupation LabourerWhen enlisted Aug 24, 1864.Where enlisted Owensboro KyFor what period enlisted 3 years.Eyes Blk; hair CopperComplexion Blk; height 5 ft. 4 1/2 in.When mustered in Aug 24, 1864.Where mustered in Owensboro KyH

118

U.S.C.T.

Robt HopkinsCorpl, Co. C, 118 Reg't U. S. Col'd Infantry.

Appears on

Company Muster Rollfor Nov & Dec, 1864Present or absent presentStoppage, \$ 100 for _____

Due Gov't, \$ 100 for _____

Remarks: Lost Haversack.Stopp. \$40

Robert Hopkins
Sergt., Co. C, 118 Reg't U. S. Col'd Infantry

Appears on

Company Muster Roll

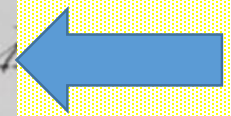
for *Jan & July*, 186*5*

Present or absent *present*

Stoppage, \$ *100* for

Due Gov't, \$ *100* for

Remarks: *Promoted Sergeant*
Jan 11^m 1865. Last
Carreen. Stopp. \$ 45



Robert Hopkins

- The circumstances of Robert's journey to Crawfordsville are lost to history, but once here, he became a member of the Second Baptist Church and settled into a home at 308 Beech, marrying his first wife, Julia, in 1876. Julia was born 1855 in Tennessee and died 30 August 1915 after operation complications. Approximately five years after Julia's death, he married Josephine Moody who outlived Robert, dying in October 1935.
- At some point he learned to read and write, listing in the 1910 census he could do both. While living in Crawfordsville, he owned his home on Beech Street taking jobs as a day laborer. He took part in annual Grand Army of the Republic Annual Encampments.
- Two years before his death, he was so weak that his family sent him to the United States Hospital at Hampton, Virginia. According to his hospital records, he suffered from senile dementia and heart problems. Robert died at the Hampton, Virginia, United States Insane Hospital on 2 April 1924 at the age of 90. His second wife, Josephine, requested and was granted a headstone from the War Department in 1927 for his grave site in Oak Hill Cemetery.

William Jordan/Gordan/Jorden

- William Harrison Jordan was born 4 June 1841 in Ohio to parents who had also been born in Ohio. He married Rachel Bell 15 September 1862 who died several years before him. In the 1920 census, he was living on Tuttle Avenue, Crawfordsville, listed himself as Mulatto, and was rooming with the family of Herman King, a local preacher.
- During the Civil War, he enlisted with the 28th Regiment U.S.C.T. He died 8 April 1929 at age 86 in Crawfordsville and was buried at the Oak Hill Cemetery. He had served as a minister for the Bethel AME Church and was a member of the Colored Masonic Lodge. Mrs. Edna Hyde, his daughter, of Crawfordsville, 313 Oak Street, made an application for a headstone in 1931. The application was successfully filled 23 January 1932.

Jackson Newkirk

- Jackson was born 2 August 1833 /29 July 1834 in Fountain County, Indiana, the son of John Newkirk and Susanna Fruits. He married (A)massa Ann Martin on 12 February 1857 in Montgomery County and had four children.
- In 1859 he went to the Kansas Territory during that area's gold rush state before the Civil War. He eventually enlisted in Company F, Colorado Second Infantry Regiment 1 October 1863 and mustered out 23 September 1865. While serving, he received the rank of the regiment's full blacksmith. During the war, he received several wounds which disabled him for life.
- After the war, he returned to his family in Crawfordsville. Toward the end of his life, he was admitted to the National Home for the Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Danville, Illinois, in 1899. He died 7 July 1908 at the home of his son, Herbert Newkirk in Danville, Illinois and was brought back to the Masonic Cemetery in Crawfordsville for burial.

Corporal Abraham Richey/ Abram Richie/ Richy

- Abram Richie was born 1842 in Indiana, the son of Samuel Richey, a farmer born in Indiana, and Eliza, born in Kentucky. In the 1850 census, the family was living in Vigo County.
- In the 1860 census, while living in Parke County, he joined Company D 28th Regiment U.S.C.T. 15 January 1864 and mustered out 8 November 1865 as a corporal. According to his Civil War draft registration, he barbered for a living.

Henry Warren/Wamen

- Henry was born about 1845 in Kentucky to slave parents who were also born in Kentucky. Henry Warren enlisted in Company D, 28th Regiment U.S.C.T. on 8 February 1864 and was discharged 8 November 1865 while serving under General John A. Logan. Most of his service was at Richmond at the time of the surrender. Discharged from the United States service at Corpus Christi Texas, he came to Crawfordsville where he lived and worked until the last three and one-half years of his life.
- In the 1870 census, he was living in a boarding house sponsored by S.A. Wickliffe. By the 1880 census, he had married Lucinda, was working as a day laborer, and still living in Crawfordsville. In the 1900 census, he had been widowed and was living on his own.
- He died at the Danville Illinois Soldiers' Home and his body was brought back to Oak Hill Cemetery for burial. Prior to his illness, he disposed of his estate and asked that he be buried on his pre-purchased lot.
- His obituary states that Uncle Henry, as he was known, would be remembered as one of this city's true characters, a true Christian, and a most genial and likable man in every respect.

Crawfordsville White Officers for Black Troops

Shannon Hudson

Henry Campbell



Henry Campbell

- In 1845, Henry C. Campbell was born in Vermillion County to John and Mary Collett Campbell.
- Henry attended Wabash College in Crawfordsville where John had established a store.
- With the help of Captain Eli Lilly, Henry enlisted as a bugler in July 1862 at the age of 16, serving with Lilly's 18th Indiana Light Artillery Battery.

Henry Campbell

- Henry Campbell lived at 211 East Pike Street, enlisted as a boy bugler in Eli Lilly's company and finished as Colonel Lilly's aide, still barely of voting age.
- In his book entitled Three Years in the Saddle: A Diary of the Civil War, he records his life as an officer during his appointment as second Lieutenant in the 101st Infantry U.S.C.T. He admits a colonel had secured the position without having to pass the required officer examination.
- January 1866 the 101st U.S.C.T was mustered out.

MUSTER-IN ROLL

Company Campbell

2nd 13th Co 104th US Inf

February 14th 1865

Henry Campbell

- Organized in Tennessee on Sept. 16, 1864. The 101st USCT was attached to the defenses of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad, Dept. of the Cumberland to March 1865, then duty in Tennessee and Alabama until mustered out, 21 January 1866.
- The 101st USCT participated in skirmishes at Madison Station, Alabama, 26 November 1864 (2nd Madison Station); Scottsboro, Alabama, 8 January 1865; and Boyd's Station, Alabama, 18 March 1865.

Henry Campbell

- *November 18, 1864 Received an official notice of my appointment as Second Lieutenant in the 101st U.S. Colored Infantry yesterday evening. This afternoon I reported in person to Colonel Barnard [who] . . . has very kindly procured a place for me in his regiment without having to pass an examination. Got paid on the 15th I drew \$145. Just one year since we was paid last...*

Henry Campbell

- *Three Years in the Saddle* is a diary of the Civil War service of Henry Campbell, a Montgomery County native and alumnus of Wabash College. Campbell's father was, for several years, a Trustee of the institution. This diary came to Wabash following Campbell's death in 1915.
- The diary is an important narrative of the Civil War covering, primarily, the activities of Eli Lilly's 18th Indiana Battery. Lilly's artillery was under the command of Colonel John T. Wilder, an innovative thinker who mounted his infantry and equipped his men with the Spencer Repeating Rifle. This brigade came to be known as "Wilder's Lightning Brigade" and was highly effective in combat.
- This digital version of *Three Years in the Saddle* is at Wabash College and Crawfordsville District Public Library

Henry Campbell

- On Aug. 16, 1863, Henry Campbell recorded in his diary how his unit, the 18th Indiana Battery, had just climbed the front range of the Cumberland Mountains, which separate the fertile Cumberland Basin of middle Tennessee from the eastern part of the state.
- A rainstorm impeded their ascent, making the road “exceedingly steep, slippery, and winding.” As they labored upward, the soldiers were enveloped by a dense fog. Suddenly, as they approached the top of the mountain, they found themselves entirely above the clouds, looking down, Campbell wrote, on “one of the grandest sights I ever witnessed.” Bright sunlight poured through the rain, creating “hundreds of rain bows on the sides of the mountains beneath us.” The 18-year-old Hoosier struggled to convey in words a sublime spectacle “that no pen could describe.”

Henry Campbell

- In his writings, he related many events that occurred to him and the Black soldiers in his charge.
- One day in June 1865, a group of officers of his regiment and several young ladies visited Dunbar to go spelunking. Henry mused about the reasons these Rebel, young, impressionable, girls would venture out with the party of Yankees and officers of Black troops. While Henry offered no details, he related the group all enjoyed themselves without incident.
- At another time, 27 December 1865, a Lieutenant Hunting C. Jessup married Miss Nina Cobb, daughter of an ex-senator of the Confederacy. Henry felt this “spoke well of officers of Black soldiers and offered a wide step in the direction of reconciliation”. In his mind, Henry believed if anyone had predicted a few years ago that the daughter of a Rebel senator would have married a Yankee officer of a Black regiment, he would have been shot on the spot

Henry Campbell

- After the war, Lt. Henry Campbell was active in the G.A.R. while operating Campbell Brothers Dry Goods with his wife Retta following his father's death. At the time of his death, 22 July 1915, Henry Campbell was vice president of the First National Bank of Crawfordsville

M. Butcher, Bazil Tilson. Bottom row sitting. Left to right. F. G. Starr, Gregory --, Gus Teague, W. H. Rppetoe, **Henry Campbell**. The two on the right of lower row are members of the 51st Ind Inf. The men from Crawfordsville are: A. C. Austin, **Henry** ... The men from Crawfordsville are: A. C. Austin, **Henry Campbell**, and Sidney Speed.



Benjamin Marshall Mills



Benjamin Marshall Mills

- Marshall was born in Crawfordsville 17 November 1846 to parents Caleb and Susan Marshall Mills. His father Caleb, first Wabash College professor and promoter of excellent Indiana education, moved to Crawfordsville in 1833.
- Marshall entered the Wabash Normal School in 1858, to study the sciences, “there speaking at length and with passion denouncing the Rebels who were trying to destroy the nation”.
- In 1863 he joined Company C of the 108th Indiana Volunteer Infantry to deflect John Hunt Morgan’s advance over the Indiana/Ohio border. However, six days later, when Morgan’s Raiders no longer threatened southern Indiana, his troop was disbanded, mustering out in Indianapolis.

Benjamin Marshall Mills

- He returned home to search for another assignment which proved to be difficult.
- Eventually, 13 March 1864, he accepted a commission as a first lieutenant in the 49th U.S.C.T. for three years. Until March 1864, the 49th had been known as the 11th Louisiana Volunteers comprised almost completely of contraband or liberated Southern slaves commanded entirely by White officers.

Benjamin Marshall Mills

- The newly designated 49th was quickly ordered to Vicksburg, Mississippi, which had been captured the previous year by Ulysses S. Grant. While in Vicksburg the 49th was involved with fortifying the city, cleaning the streets, chopping wood, but never saw any fighting action for the remainder of the war. Eventually the troops were ordered to Yazoo City, Mississippi.
- In Marshall's writings to his father, he never completely explained his feeling about commanding Black soldiers, but that certainly didn't stop his father Caleb from pontificating. In one letter, Caleb tells Marshall to "be pleased when his soldiers conducted themselves with proper decorum, to celebrate their intelligence and patriotism, and to remind the soldiers that good character is worth all sacrifice". Also, Caleb preferred Marshall tell his men that no one deserves to vote who cannot write his name and read the ballot. No evidence exists if Marshall every heeded his father's suggestions to speak these words to his men.

Benjamin Marshall Mills

- In his letters to his father, he shares some of the more intimate stories his company experienced. He tells his father that when arriving at Vicksburg, other officers advised him to take a strong drink every day to stay healthy. While he may have had a few drinks while in service, he told his father his greater accomplishment came when he swore off his true vice, chewing tobacco.

Other tales occurring during his service included;

- Admitting he himself had trouble getting up to call the roll. Throughout the letters it appears this difficulty landed him in some trouble with his superiors.
- Smallpox sweeping through his regiment.

Benjamin Marshall Mills

- While serving, near Yazoo City, the troops passed plantations, Negroes waved, plantation owners did not. As they patrolled the area, he wrote of the devastated and abandoned plantations that still simmered from burning, marked by shells with large fruitful, unattended gardens that the 49th used for food.
- Watched Union prisoners from Andersonville exchanged for Confederate prisoners near the Vicksburg area.
- Learned the news of the Lincoln assassination, capture of Petersburg, and the fall of Richmond.
- Watched 12 soldiers of the 49th hung for murdering a white family. (details not included.)
- Personally arrested a corporal for playing cards with the men and had trouble disarming him.
- Watched one of his soldiers drop dead from sunstroke while drilling

Benjamin Marshall Mills

- Witnessed guerilla Confederates raid a plantation about 2 miles from his camp and Black residents flocking to his camp.
- Prosecuted a Joseph Scott, soldier, who shot a finger on his right hand in order to get a discharge.
- Recorded civilians interfering with his detail cutting brush in the woods.
- Following the Battle of Milliken, he witnessed the Rebels handcuff a Union Lieutenant taken prisoner, shackle his feet together, and throw him in the river to drown.
- Endured a mutiny involving 42 men. Some of the mutineers were shot, some imprisoned at hard labor.
- Spent time in the hospital recovering from a lingering illness and desperation to eat better food.

Benjamin Marshall Mills

- Expresses concern that the Black troops felt they were now free since they had served in the military and by default were exempt from military discipline.
- He was arrested and reprimanded on account his lack of effort in his detail, but was acquitted at his court-martial.
- Recounted a story of another White officer that cared nothing about his Black troops, only taking the assignment due to the \$108.50 per month pay.
- By June 1865 severe illness kept him from active duty.

Benjamin Marshall Mills

- By the summer of 1865, his father, Caleb, repeatedly urged Marshall to resign his post and return to Crawfordsville. Caleb felt the war was over and Marshall's multiple illnesses should be reason enough to resign his post. Marshall had to borrow money from his parents to settle his Army debts due to officer pay being so irregularly. In the end, the Army owed him \$1313.50 back pay. Marshall's first set of resignation papers from Washington were lost and his resignation deferred until 17 July 1865. Once all debts were settled, he left on the *SS Emma* bound for Indiana.
- Once back on Hoosier soil, in the fall 1865 he reentered Wabash as a sophomore and joined Phi Delta Theta. He regained his health and graduated from Wabash in the spring of 1868, receiving a bachelor of arts degree in classical studies with his class of ten other graduates. After college, Marshall studied medicine with Dr. McClelland but, in the early fall of 1868, his health failed him again. He contracted a severe cold which settled in his lungs developing into pneumonia. In the early winter he went ice-skating while still ill and he fell which worsened his condition. He died 7 January 1869 at just 22 years of age and was buried at Oak Hill Cemetery.